

GROUND RULES

- Participation consent forms will be reviewed.
- Maximum duration: for focus group-- 90 minutes: for interview--60 minutes.
- Participation is voluntary and based on informed consent.
- Only first names will be used and participants may use an alias if they prefer.
- Focus group facilitators and interviewers will ensure that all participants have a chance to talk.
- Focus group facilitators and interviewers will be sensitive to any signs of distress on the part of the victim participant.
- A counselor will be available at the time of the focus group or interview for needed victim support. Victims will also be offered the 24-hour hotline number.
- When necessary, the focus group or interview will be halted to allow participants to take breaks.
- Participants will be instructed to respect each others' privacy and not repeat what they hear during the group.
- Focus groups and interviews will follow a specific question format and adopt neutral and non-directive methods to elicit responses from the participants.
- Facilitators and interviewers will make any reasonable accommodations a participant may need in order to participate comfortably in the focus group or interview.
- If a participant is accompanied by an aide, whenever possible said aide will not be included in the focus group or interview, but shall be on the premises should an emergency arise.
- Only those participating in the focus group will be allowed to contribute.